

Message Text

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, JA

SUBJ: VISIT TO JAPAN NRC REPRESENTATIVES

REF: TELECON LAFLEUR-HENOCH JUNE 3

ERDA PLEASE PASS TO NRC LAFLEUR

1. SUMMARY. JAEB HAPPY TO DISCUSS RESULTS FUKUSHIMA-2 FUEL CHANNEL BOX EXAMINATION WITH NRC EXPERTS BUT DESIRES MEETING IN TOKYO RATHER THAN FUKUSHIMA AT SLIGHTLY LATER DATE.

2. SCIREP VISITED JAEB AND DISCUSSED PROPOSED VISIT LAFLEUR, STELLO AND ACKERMAN TO JAPAN WITH KAMINURA, JAEB AND NAMIKI, ANRE. KAMIMURA INDICATED STUDY NOT COMPLETE YET BUT HOPE TO HAVE BY EARLY WEEK OF JUNE 9 (LAST WEEK'S ESTIMATE WAS WEEK JUNE 2) AND RELEASE COORDINATED STORY TO PRESS LATER IN SAME WEEK. UNTIL RELEASE NO REPEAT NO INFORMATION WILL HAVE BEEN MADE PUBLIC.

3. IN RESPONSE TO INFO ON POSSIBLE NRC VISIT CABLED BY MURAKAMI CABINET LEVEL MITI AND AEB MEETING WAS HELD AT WHICH DECISION MADE TO KEEP NRC VISIT UNPUBLICIZED AND LOW PROFILE. (OUR TANSULATION JAEB LETTER TO MURAKAMI FOLLOWS AS ITEM 9.)

4. PROBLEM IS THAT JAEB HEAVILY IN THROES OF ATTEMPTING TO ESTABLISH ITSELF IN PUBLIC EYE AS COMPETENT AND CAPABLE TECHNICAL ORGANIZATION IN FULL COMMAND OF WELL-RUN NUCLEAR
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PROGRAM. IMAGE VERY SHAKY IN WAKE OF MUTSU INCIDENT WHICH UNRESOLVED AND UNDER UNRELENTING PUBLICITY AND POLITICAL PRESSURE. GOVT FEARS VISIT US NRC EXPERTS TO FUKUSHIMA WOULD UNDERMINE THIS IMAGE BY APPEARING TO "CHECK UP ON" OR "VERIFY"

DATA FURNISHED BY JAPANESE OR BY APPEARING TO HAVE BEEN CALLED IN TO SOLVE PROBLEM JAPANESE INCAPABLE OF HANDLING.

5. IN ADDITION TO IMAGE PROBLEM, JAPANESE FEAR PUBLICITY OF THIS SORT COULD ADD SUFFICIENT FUEL TO CURRENT ANTI-NUCLEAR "BWR MORATORIUM" MOVEMENT TO INFLICT SERIOUS DAMAGE ON JAPANESE NUCLEAR PROGRAM.

6. ACCORDINGLY, JAPANESE DESIRE THAT NRC TRIP BE UNPUBLICIZED AND INFORMAL AND THAT IT BE HELD IN TOKYO RATHER THAN FUKUSHIMA.

7 KAMIURA MAINTAINS THAT THE INVESTIGATION HAS BEEN VERY WELL DOCUMENTED AFFAIR SO THAT GOOD SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS CAN BE HELD IN TOKYO WITH A RANGE OF COMPETENT AND INVOLVED INDIVIDUALS AND WITH THE AID OF VOLUMINOUS NARRATIVE AND PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION.

8. SINCE DATE OF COMPLETION OF ANALYSIS STILL UNCERTAIN, JAPANESE SUGGEST MEETING BE SCHEDULED FOR LATE IN WEEK OF JUNE 8, PERHAPS JUNE 12 AND 13. COMMENT: AS POINTED OUT IN 2 ABOVE, REPORT COMPLETION DATE SLIPPED A WEEK SINCE LAST WEEK, SO FOLLOWING WEEK MIGHT BE SAFER.

9. FOLLOWING IS OUR TRANSLATION OF JUNE 2 MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION DIVISION, AEB, STA, TO THE JAPANESE EMBASSY IN THE US:

QUOTE WITH REFERENCE TO YOUR NO. 2254 AND NO. 2442, IT IS REQUESTED THAT YOU INFORM THE RESPONSIBLE NRC OFFICER AS FOLLOWS:

A. INVESTIGATION IS BEING CONTINUED ON THE CHANNEL BOXES OF THE FUKUSHIMA-2 REACTOR.

B. EXAMINATION WITH A SUBMERGED PERISCOPE HAS CONFIRMED THE EXISTENCE OF CRACKS IN THREE CHANNEL BOXES. TWO OF THEM ARE AROUND LPRM NO. 20-45 AND ONE AROUND LPRM NO. 44-29. WORN AREAS WERE FOUND ON CHANNEL BOXES AROUND OTHER LPRM.

C. WE HAVE HURRIED TO SEND LPRM NO. 44-29 (WITH CRACK) AND LPRM NO. 04-21 (WITH WEAR) AS EXAMPLES.

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D. THE DATA AVAILABLE ARE BEING SUMMED UP AND ASSESSED WITH THE END OF THIS WEEK AS THE TARGET TIME. AN OVERALL ASSESSMENT WILL BE MADE AFTER A REVIEW OF THE DATA BY MITT'S NUCLEAR POWER GENERATION SPECIALISTS CONFERENCE.

WE THINK IT POSSIBLE, THEREFORE, TO PROVIDE CONSIDERABLE INFORMATION IN THE WEEK BEGINNING ON JUNE 8. IN CASE AN NRC SPECIALIST COMES TO JAPAN, WE DESIRE THAT HIS VISIT TO JAPAN BE AN INFORMAL ONE AND THAT THE NRC SIDE NOT MAKE IT BEGIN UNDERLINE-OPEN-END UNDERLINE (VERBATIM, ORIGINAL IN ENGLISH).

E. THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY IS TO ISSUE A PRESS RELEASE ON THIS MATTER WHEN THE RESULTS OF THE INVESTIGATION ARE SUMMED UP. IT IS REQUESTED, THEREFORE, THAT THE

INFORMATION PROVIDED FROM US ON THIS MATTER BE CONFINED
INSIDE NRC.

F. IT IS REQUESTED THAT YOU CONTACT NRC SO THAT, IN
CASE NRC IS TO TAKE ACTION ON THIS MATTER, NRC WILL MAKE A
CONTACT BEFOREHAND, SINCE WE ALSO WILL NEED TO TAKE ACTION
IN THAT CASE.

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